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Is lack of fair and just working environment at depot level affecting day-to-day conduct of BMTC crew?

GUILT TRIPPING

8,676 complaints raised against BMTC crew in 2023

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Between January and December 2023, Bengalureans registered as many as 8,676 complaints against the drivers and conductors of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), according to the official data from BMTC.

Out of these, the majority (nearly 3,000) were related to behaviour of the crew, followed by drivers not stopping at designated spots (1,219 instances), buses taking non-designated routes (827 instances), issues related to tickets (814 instances), and rash driving (753 instances).

Other complaints included defective vehicles, higher emissions, problems with the BMTC online application, and so forth.

Experts BM spoke to said BMTC drivers and conductors are under tremendous work pressure. Not only are the crew expected to complete a certain number of trips in an eight-hour shift, which is difficult in Bengaluru traffic, but there is also a lack of a fair and just working environment at depot level, which puts them under extreme pressure that manifests in their day-to-day conduct.

“The crew can be expected to be just and fair only when they are given a just and fair working environment...

— Shaheen Shasa, Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike

“It is good that BMTC is updating the trip timings as current trip timings are outdated. However, there is a need to improve the work environment at the depot level, which is exploitative at present. The crew undergo a great deal of oppression and harassment. The crew can be expected to be just and fair only when they are given a just and fair working environment where they feel in control of their lives. Once these dynamics inside the organisation change, drivers and conductors will also be kinder and supportive to commuters,” said Shaheen Shasa from Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike.

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Luxe loos

Civic body to upgrade public toilets in city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is to improve and upgrade public toilets in the city on par with toilets at airports and major bus stations in the state, we are told.

“The maintenance of the public toilets is important to make public use the toilets instead of footpaths and vacant places. As part of the comprehensive plan for the city, we have decided to not only upgrade the existing toilets but also construct new toilets on par with the toilets at airports and major bus stations,” said an official at BBMP solid waste management wing.

The official said measures would be taken to ensure maintenance of all the public toilets without compromising quality. “There are some contractors who consider maintenance of public toilets as their sole mandate but such people are only interested in collecting user fees and not concerned about the maintenance of toilets,” the BBMP official said.

BBMP has already floated a tender inviting bidders for the construction of new toilets and also to upgrade existing toilets in the city. The civic body has identified around 200 public toilets in dilapidated condition. The plan is to construct 46 ODF ++ toilets in the city. The ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Rajasthani essence

Experience Rajasthan's cultural richness at The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition, showcasing diverse handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, sarees, and more. Explore traditional craftsmanship blended with contemporary lifestyle products and enjoy live performances.
Where: Banashankari Mahila Samaja
When: Until January 20

02 Intricate narratives

Vivek's one-hour Bharatanatyam explores the profound "in between." Graceful movements navigate intersections of creation, destruction, humanity, nature, and harmony in this exquisite classical dance solo.
Where: Medai - The Stage
When: January 14

03 Playful delight

"Celebrate Block Play" promises a day filled with joy and creativity, offering an exciting extravaganza for participants of all ages. Dive into a world of imagination, exploration, and fun as you engage in various block play activities.
Where: Troy Block Centre
When: January 15

Makar Sankranthi in the city: One festival, many celebrations

From colourful rangolis to mouth-watering dishes, diverse communities come together for a unique blend of festivities, celebrating the spirit of unity, harvest, and cultural richness

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It's a festive time in Bengaluru as the city gears up for Sankranthi. The streets are filled with sugarcane, Avarekayi (broad beans), tubers, and peanuts. Suraj Gowda, a resident of Magadi Road, shares his excitement, stating, "My mom is busy distributing Ellu and Bella on Monday. 'Ellu,' meaning sesame seeds, and 'bella,' jaggery, are mixed with coconut and groundnuts, forming a delightful mixture shared with relatives and friends. At my native place, we celebrate by decorating cattle with colours and making them jump over a bonfire. Makar Sankranthi marks the end of winter and the beginning of longer days, known as Uttarayan, considered highly auspicious."

In Bengaluru's cosmopolitan ambience, residents from diverse communities share their unique festival plans. C Sreenivas, from Defence Colony, details the Telugu community's celebration, stating, "We celebrated the Bhogi festival on Sunday and are gearing up for Sankranthi on Monday. The day involves wearing new clothes, offering prayers, and sharing sweets with the family. The third day, 'Kanuma Panduga,' witnesses vibrant rangoli decorations. Various cultural performances and processions add to the festive charm."

'Pongal Vizha' during Makar Sankranti involves preparation of Pongal, symbolising prosperity and celebrating the harvest season with a new pot

Jasmine, a native of Odisha residing in Bengaluru, said, "It is a time of thanksgiving marked by rituals such as cleansing the house with holy water. Prayers are offered at temples, accompanied by offerings like red bangles and cloth. Special sweets prepared with rice, jaggery, milk, banana, sugarcane, and coconut, are offered to the gods and shared among the family. We prepare food with newly harvested rice in 'bhog' and create delicacies from coconut, banana, and rice. A popular dish called 'khai' is made, and taking an early bath to offer water to the sun god is essential. Kheer, another traditional dish, is cooked in abundance on this day."

Debanshi Chakraborty, a native of Assam currently in Bengaluru, mentioned the preparations with dishes like Nariyal and til laddoos. Prakhar Shrivastav, originally from Uttar Pradesh and now residing in Bengaluru, talks about worshipping the sun god, offering water, and arranging pulses and rice with turmeric for the deity. Khichdi is a significant dish prepared in large quantities, symbolising unity and charity.

Bhuvana, a native of Maharashtra residing in Bengaluru, shared her celebration of Maghi Sankrant, marked by special prayers and ritualistic dips in holy rivers. Sesame seeds and jaggery-based sweets, like tilgul, symbolise goodwill and are exchanged among friends and family.

Priyanka, a native of Bihar, introduced Khichdi Parv, a festival celebrated around Makar Sankranthi, revolving around the preparation and sharing of khichdi, symbolising unity and communal harmony.

Hasmita, a Gujarati, talks about the vibrant preparations for Uttarayan, involving kite flying, cultural events, music, and dance performances. "Families come together to fly kites from dawn till dusk, fostering a sense of togetherness and creating lasting memories," she said.

Ram Vinay, a Rajasthani, described their pre-festival celebrations with kite flying competitions, filling the sky with colourful kites. The festival involves special puja rituals, including lighting lamps, offering flowers, fruits, and sweets to the deity, and reciting prayers.

Gayatri, a Tamil Nadu native in Kengeri, highlights the celebration of Thai Pongal, expressing gratitude to the sun god for a bountiful harvest. Homes are adorned with colourful rangoli, and unique designs compete for the title of the best.

2,200 policemen participate in CPR training

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Over 2,200 policemen participated in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Sunday. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dinesh Gundu Rao, inaugurated the CPR training, with Commissioner of Police B Dayananda as the chief guest. The Surgical Society of Bengaluru received a certificate from the World Records of London for organising training for such a substantial number of policemen.

Appreciating the CPR training programme organised on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Surgical Society of Bengaluru, Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao expressed his desire to recommend CPR training for students, employees of road transport corporations, and government departments.

"I also want to undergo CPR training. Let all of us participate in this crucial training, which is very important. The training plays a vital role in saving lives. I want to express my appreciation to the organisers for arranging this initiative. It would be beneficial if everyone, including students, teachers, and health department employees, undergo CPR training. Individuals trained in CPR can effectively save the lives of people experiencing cardiac arrest. The training is simple and easy to learn," said Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Health Minister, Commissioner of Police and other policemen participating in the CPR training

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner of Police B Dayananda said that CPR training would help save the lives of people suffering from cardiac arrest. "This training will be crucial in saving the lives of both policemen and common people experiencing cardiac arrest," the Commissioner of Police said.

The president of the Surgical Society of Bengaluru Dr Rajashekhar C Jaka has opined that the precious lives of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar and former president of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam would have been saved if they got the first aid on the spot. "The Surgical Society of Bengaluru has plans to organise some important programmes throughout the year on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee," he said.

He said that the preparations to organise this mega event began three months ago. "We provided training for policemen in two batches. The training for each batch was for one hour. Around 250 doctors attended the event," he said.

ICATT Foundation & Society of Emergency Medicine have associated with the Surgical Society of Bengaluru to conduct the event. It is said that for every one lakh people, India sees 4,500 cases of cardiac arrest and only two per cent of Indians know how to carry out CPR.

Ticket row: Bus conductor attacked

A BMTC passenger tried to attack a female BMTC conductor with a knife over a scuffle over the issuance of a value ticket at 10 am on Sunday.

According to officials, the passenger was wielding a knife at the time of attack but the BMTC conductor escaped with scratches.

"The incident happened today in a bus belonging to Depot 40 when the bus was en route from Majestic to Nelamangala. The BMTC conductor Sukanya asked for an ID proof for the zero-value ticket issued under the Shakthi scheme but the passengers refused. There was an argument between the two and the passenger attacked the conductor. Even though the passenger was wielding a knife, the conductor escaped with minor scratches. She was immediately taken to the Nelamangala General Hospital for treatment. We have filed a complaint at Bagalkunte Police Station and an FIR will be lodged," said a senior BMTC official.

BMTC is also planning to look at the possibility of getting CCTV footage if available within the bus.

As of January 13, 42,86,36,912 female passengers had used BMTC services since March 11, 2023. **BMB**

No compensation for idle buses, says HC

The High Court has noted that the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and other transport corporations will not be entitled to compensation for loss of revenue when their buses remain idle at garage stations for repair due to damage caused by road accidents. The order was passed by Justice Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar while a claim for compensation for loss of revenue made by the KSRTC from insurance companies in several cases of road accidents was rejected.

The court said that under Section 72 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and under Rule 69-A of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, it is an obligation for KSRTC and other transport business companies to ensure that they maintain a specific number of reserve/spare buses that can be deployed, in place of the buses that are damaged due to road accidents and require repair, on permitted scheduled routes. The court also noted that the law mandates transport companies to ply their reserve buses in order to make sure that the public and passengers hoping to travel on the scheduled route are not inconvenienced due to the non-availability of the designated bus after a road accident incident.

The court also noted that according to law, route permit holders are also bound to maintain a certain number of buses as reserve. **BMB**

Yama is back, but that's not good enough, say citizens

File photo of a person dressed up as Yama explaining to motorists the perils of traffic violations

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With the increasing cases of traffic violations and an all-time high of fatalities on the road, the traffic police have brought back 'Yamaraj'. Traffic police personnel were seen with a skit featuring the God of death catching violators and educating them about traffic offences on Sunday.

The skit showed Yama coming down to earth to take a man who had died in a road accident because he wasn't wearing a helmet.

"Yama is angry, saying that despite the traffic cops having warned him several times about the importance of wearing helmets, this man chose to endanger himself and his family. Chitragupta says the cops had caught the guy 20 times prior to his death," said a citizen who witnessed the skit.

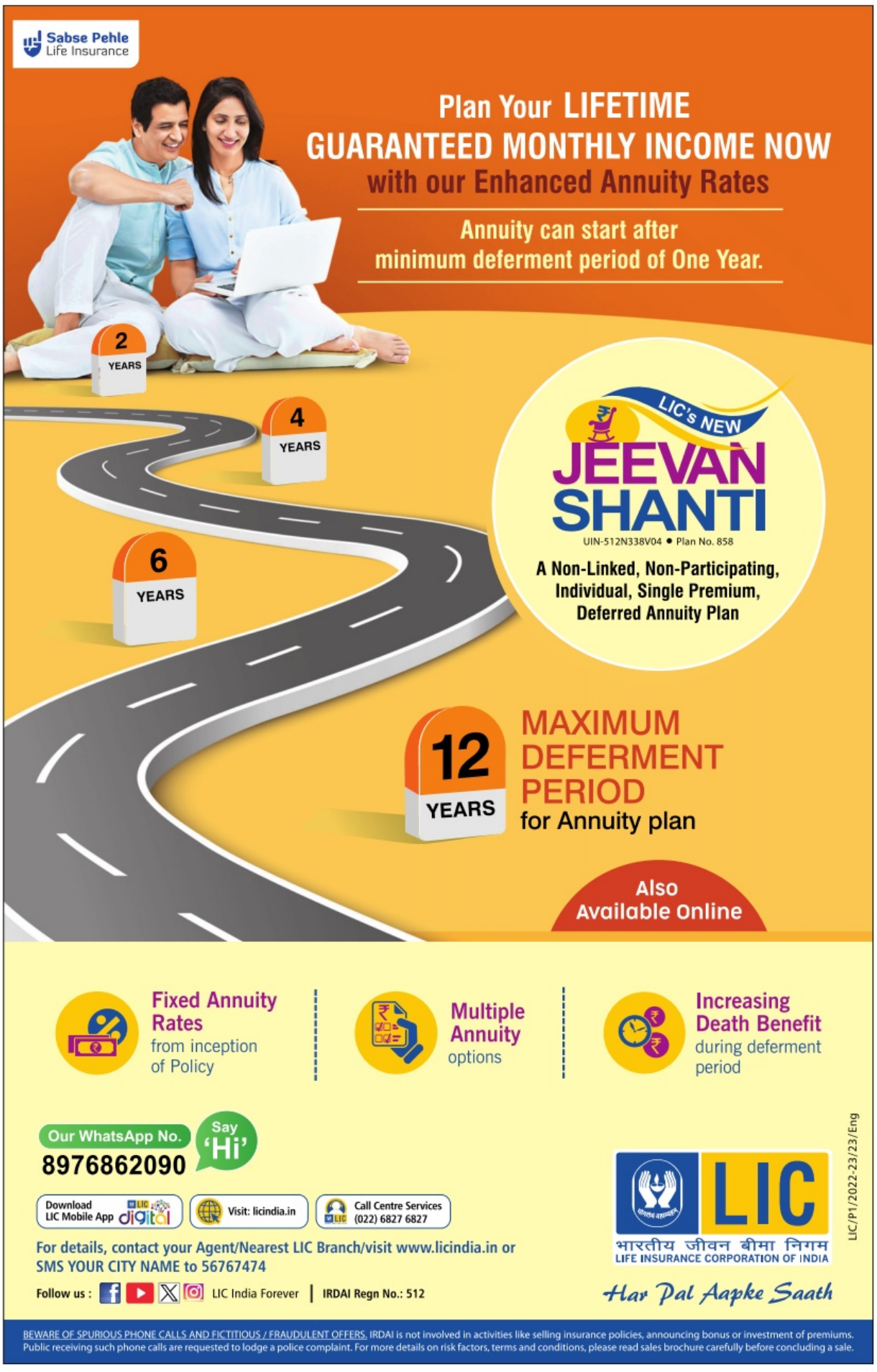
However, citizens say that traffic police are rarely seen at some junctions, and they never catch vehicles that are speeding. One or two days of having a skit on the roads won't make much of a difference, they said.

"It's a good thing to bring awareness, but I don't think it will have any actual impact in ensuring that mishaps are reduced. The police need to take more systemic steps. Even from the perspective of the RTOs that give out licenses after a test that I believe does not check if the individual is competent enough to be riding on Bengaluru roads. The traffic cops are meant for enforcement mostly, and it's nice that they are trying to do this too, but like all departments, they need to collaborate to bring any real change," said Ramesh.

Another citizen Shyam said the idea is more of an attraction. "People will see, get amused for a day, and then the same person will violate lane discipline the next day. Until we don't have a heavy fine system, people won't stop violations."

Commuters say that the initiative to educate people on the importance of traffic rules is a great idea. However, using negative reinforcement to rectify a problem is temporary.

"Just like all other emotions, fear too has a reduced effect over time, and most people who fail to follow traffic rules are the ones who're in a hurry to get to their destinations, so eventually, they will fall back onto the same violations. In my opinion, the police must look at alternative solutions that have a positive effect on an individual so it creates a working practice of following rules," said Vinay Paul.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Parking on road deals lethal blow

Irresponsible parking, commercialisation, and tragic accidents plague Geetanjali Layout and New Thippasandra; locals seek urgent intervention from authorities

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Illegal parking on both sides of the service road

Perhaps it may not be an exaggeration to say that the service road situated between Suranjana Das Road and Geetanjali Layout at New Thippasandra is one of the most misused roads in Bengaluru East, with truck drivers, cab drivers, irresponsible building contractors, and residents alike contributing to the issue.

Though the traffic police are just a stone's throw away, regulating vehicular traffic near Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Junction, close to BEML and the DRDO Complex Junction, the truck drivers and cab drivers continue to park haphazardly on both sides of the service road. The residents allege that traffic police have done nothing to stop vehicles from parking on both sides of the service road.

It is reported that one of the senior citizens of Geetanjali Layout succumbed to serious injuries after a speeding car hit him while walking on the road. The deceased is identified as S Muniyappa, a retired engineer. "I appeal to the authorities to construct scientifically designed road humps at this location to prevent road accidents. A senior citizen has lost their life in a tragic accident. The traffic police visited the spot and seized the vehicle," said a resident, requesting anonymity.

Demanding the BBMP authorities and traffic police to take measures to prevent the commercialisation of Geetanjali Layout, HAL 3rd Stage First Block Residents' Welfare Association General Secretary Ananth G stated that residents are unable to walk in the layout due to haphazard parking of vehicles on both sides of the crossroads and the service road.

> **The service road has become a destination for parking of all types of vehicles round the clock. Cab, truck, and auto-rickshaw drivers are creating yellow spots by attending nature's call on the service road**
>
> –Sanjay Vaidhya, resident

"Muniyappa, who was killed in the road accident, is my neighbour. Commercialisation of this area has become a cause of concern for us. I want the concerned authorities to take measures to prevent the parking of vehicles on both sides of crossroads in the layout," said Ananth G.

Sandeep A, a resident, opined that the authorities should and must take measures to prevent the commercialisation of the area.

The chaotic parking of vehicles is causing a lot of problems for the residents on the service road. They said that they find it difficult either to reach home or to take out vehicles from their homes. "The service road has become a destination for parking of all types of vehicles round the clock. Cab, truck, and auto-rickshaw drivers are creating yellow spots by attending nature's call on the service road," said Sanjay Vaidhya, a resident.

He said the dumping of debris continues on the service road throughout the year. "The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities made arrangements to clear debris but irresponsible people dump debris as soon as the BBMP contractor removes them," he said, adding that the residents want to complain to higher authorities on this issue.

the unfortunate road accident is a result of the commercialisation of residential areas, Satish Rao, a social activist, said the vehicle in question belongs to a commercial establishment owner in this area.

Who will take action to remove the vehicles parked on both sides of the service road, causing inconvenience to the hapless residents—the traffic police or BBMP authorities?

Chunchaghatta Lake faces ecological crisis

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Various varieties of birds that have migrated to the lake

Dissolved oxygen in a lake refers to the amount of oxygen present in the water, which is vital for supporting aquatic organisms, including fish, through respiration. Recently, the dissolved oxygen levels in Chunchaghatta Lake have fallen below the required parameters. According to the weekly water quality check report by Action Aid Association, it was observed that Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in the water was recorded as being under 3 mg/L.

Some locals have observed one or two dead fish in the lake. Although it cannot be attributed to a mass fish kill incident, it has raised some concerns. During the water quality check conducted by the Action Aid Association, the DO levels on January 9 were found to be about 2.97 mg/L. The ideal levels should typically range between 6.8-8.5 mg/L.

DO is considered one of the most crucial indicators of aquatic ecosystem conditions. Adequate levels promote biodiversity and overall ecosystem health, while low levels can lead to hypoxia, thereby harming aquatic life. Monitoring dissolved oxygen is crucial for assessing water quality and ensuring the sustainability of freshwater ecosystems.

Raghavendra Pachhapur from Action Aid Association said, "The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) needs to take adequate measures to control pollutants entering the lake water. We have observed a significant amount of untreated sewage water entering the lake. While the lake boasts numerous advantages, such as its enriched biodiversity attracting many migratory birds and its role as a boon for collecting rainwater in the catchment area, it also faces drawbacks with sewage water entering the lake. When complaints are raised, the KSPCB sends notices to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB); however, after that, there is often a lack of follow-up, leaving the lake in a state of suffering."

As per data, 15 migratory birds have visited this lake like Ashy Drogo, Barn Swallow, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Booted Warbler, Chestnut Starling, Common Sandpiper, Forest Wagtail, Greenish Warbler, Indian Golden Oriole, Rosy Starling, Western Marsh Harrier, Gray Wagtail, Green Sandpiper, Western Yellow Wagtail and Wood Sandpiper.

Pachhapur said, "The lake has the capacity to support many bird species if we ensure sufficient vegetation and maintain good water quality. Neglecting the lake's ecology means losing out on an ecological treasure. Apart from that, although the lake was restored in the year 2020, two stretches measuring approximately 50 meters around the boundary are under dispute, and fencing is absent."

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Road blockade
JP Nagar

The main road in 3rd A Block, Royal Park Residency Layout 1, 9th Phase, JP Nagar, is obstructed due to construction materials.

No lights
Hoysala Nagar

The dysfunctional streetlight on 8th Main, 5th Cross, Hoysala Nagar, has caused inconvenience to residents for the past few days, with no attention paid until now.

Road ravaged
Sanjaynagar

The road troubles in AECS Layout 2nd Stage, specifically on 15th Cross, Sanjaynagar, depict the aftermath of digging by BESCOM and BWSSB, leaving the road in a dire state.

NPS tax benefits: How you can claim deductions under old, new IT regime

Individual taxpayers, whether they are salaried or self-employed, have limited avenues of saving income tax. The National Pension System (NPS) is one of the top tax-saving investment options among salaried taxpayers and it works well even for self-employed taxpayers. Further, tax deductions for investments in NPS are available under both new and old income tax regimes. If you are wondering how to avail of tax deductions for your NPS investment, read here.

What are the tax deductions that you claim for investing in NPS?

You can claim tax deductions against NPS under three sections of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in India: Sections 80CCD (1), 80CCD (1B), and 80CCD (2). Here is a look at each one of them.

NPS tax benefits under Section 80CCD (1):

Section 80CCD (1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, allows for a deduction from your gross total income for contributions made to the NPS. Both salaried and self-employed taxpayers can avail of the deduction under section 80CCD(1) for investments in NPS. The maximum deduction under this section is — 10% of your salary (Basic + DA) for salaried individuals or 20% of gross total income for self-employed, subject to a ceiling of Rs 1.5 lakh in a financial year. Do remember that this limit is within the overall ceiling of Rs 1.5 lakh under Section 80 CCE. The aggregate amount of deductions under section 80C, section 80CCC and section 80CCD should not exceed Rs 1.5 lakh.

NPS tax benefits under Section 80CCD (1B):

Section 80CCD (1B) offers an additional deduction of up to Rs 50,000 for contributions to NPS. This is over and above the limit of Rs 1.5 lakh available under Section 80CCD (1), providing a potential tax-saving opportunity for both salaried and self-employed taxpayers.

NPS tax benefits under Section 80CCD (2):

Section 80CCD (2) pertains to the employer's contribution to an employee's NPS account. So, it is available only for the salaried taxpayers. "The amount of deduction cannot exceed 14% of the salary in the case of Central Government employees and 10% in the case of any other employees," says Adhil Shetty, CEO, of Bankbazaar.com. Many employees in the private sector get the flexibility to structure their salary in such a way that their employer tributes to NPS by deducting it from their overall cost-to-company (CTC) package.

The maximum employer's contribution on which a salaried employee can get this deduction is Rs 7.5 lakh. This limit includes contribution towards EPF and super annulation fund also.

How much return can you get from NPS investments?

The returns from NPS are variable and depend on the specific plan that you choose. NPS offers four asset classes — Equity, Corporate Debt, Government Bonds, and Alternative Investment Funds. Investors can access these asset classes through either the active or auto-choice route. The returns are directly linked to the performance of these underlying asset classes and their respective weights in the chosen portfolio. The flexibility of NPS allows investors to tailor their asset allocation based on risk tolerance and investment goals, influencing the potential returns on their contributions over the long term.

"As of January 5, 2024, equity pension fund managers have achieved impressive returns, nearing, or exceeding 25% over the past year. Additionally, corporate bond funds have delivered robust returns, reaching or surpassing 8%. Government securities funds have also performed well, providing returns exceeding 7.5%. These positive results indicate strong performance across different asset classes within the pension fund landscape," says Nirav R Karkera, Head-Research, Fisdom.

"The average annualised returns under NPS as of January 2024 are in the range of about 8% to 15%, depending on the asset class and allocation and the NPS fund manager," says Akhil Chandna, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat.

By Anulekha Ray, ET Online

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No city for street vendors? Evictions causing unease

Though Deputy CM has justified clearing of footpaths, citizens wonder why focus not shifting to illegally parked vehicles

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KAUSHIK JN

Street vendors protest against their eviction at Jayanagar on Saturday

While speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the National Road Safety Month event at the Kanteerava Outdoor stadium on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the ongoing street vendor evictions were as per the High Court's order. "Footpaths are meant to be used by pedestrians, and they cannot be occupied by street vendors. Street vendors will be allowed to do their business at suitable locations, after valid registrations with the authorities. The government is also willing to provide street vendors with financial assistance," he said.

On April 21, 2021, the court had directed authorities to strictly enforce the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, the Karnataka Traffic Control Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and initiate criminal proceedings against footpath encroachers.

However, Vinay Sreenivasa, member of Bengaluru Jilla Beedhi Vyaapari Sanghatanegala Okkuta (Street Vendors Union), noted that the Street Vendors Act brought in by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) allows vending on footpaths as long as pedestrians have the space to walk. He further questioned the Deputy Chief Minister on the specifics of the High Court order cited.

The activist on Friday had taken to the social media site Twitter (now X) to call out the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for trying to seize fruits of street vendors who had identity cards issued by the same authority in Jayanagar 4th block. He had noted that the BBMP was violating Section 3(3), 18 of Street Vendors Act.

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, passed with the objective of shielding street vendors from harassment and loss of livelihood mandates local authorities like the BBMP to conduct a survey every five years in order to identify them. The street vendors identified through the survey will then be provided licenses by the authority. According to Section 3(3) of the Act, "No street vendor shall be evicted or, as the case may be, relocated till the survey specified under sub-section (1) has been completed and the certificate of vending is issued to all street vendors".

> **"No street vendor shall be evicted or, as the case may be, relocated till the survey has been completed and certificate of vending is issued** – Street Vendors Act

BBMP has not conducted this required survey since February last year. Majority of the licences given out in 2017 during the first ever survey conducted have now expired. Without taking note of the mandates, BBMP has been conducting evictions across areas like Malleshwaram, Jayanagar and Banashankari.

Neitzens have called out the BBMP for going after poor street vendors while not batting an eye towards car and two-wheeler parking on footpaths. Varini, a resident, noted that if authorities paid the same attention towards lake encroachment or car parking taking over pedestrian pathways, the city would witness a different transformation.

2 road accidents claim 2 lives

Two fatalities occurred in separate accidents in the city on Sunday. A 47-year-old pedestrian named Narendra lost his life after being struck by a private bus near Kidwai Hospital in Wilson Garden. The collision resulted in severe head injuries, and despite being rushed to NIMHANS, Narendra, a BBMP garbage truck driver from Chandrappa Nagar, Adugodi, succumbed to his injuries.

In another tragic incident reported by Kamakshipalya traffic police station, a 34-year-old pillion rider, Dinesh Bhatt, lost his life while accompanying his colleague Tikaraj Bhatt. The duo was traveling from Nayandahalli to Tumkur Road on Outer Ring Road when Tikaraj, driving under the influence, lost control of the vehicle. The ensuing fall led to injuries to Tikaraj and the death of Dinesh, who was run over by another bike in the same direction.

44 flights delayed due to bad weather in a few cities

The departure of 44 flights from Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru was delayed on Sunday due to bad weather in several cities, an official here said.

According to the Airport official, a thick layer of mist at KIA Bengaluru, delayed the landing of some flights at the city airport. Consequently, the departure of 44 flights was delayed, the official said, attributing it to bad weather in many cities including Bengaluru. Of these 44, seven were flights to Delhi, while one was diverted from Chennai to Bengaluru. **PTI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Controversial birthday

A recent birthday bash at Kanakagiri police station has stirred controversy. Police personnel went all out with all activities such as cake-cutting, violating a government order that prohibits such festivities in police stations. The images and videos of the event quickly went viral, prompting higher-ups to take action. The top brass reminded the staff that birthday celebrations have long been banned in police stations.

Reverse trap

We are familiar with Lokayukta operations in which officials accepting bribes are caught red-handed. However, in a rare occurrence, Lokayukta recently apprehended a bribe giver. Bharat Hegde, the Chief Executive Officer of Haveri Taluk Panchayat, filed a complaint with Lokayukta, alleging that an individual seeking a tender for supplying various items had offered a 20% commission to the CEO. The CEO, in response, instructed the accused to meet at a hotel and promptly informed Lokayukta about the situation. When the accused arrived to hand over Rs 60,000 as an advance, Lokayukta police apprehended him, ensuring that Hegde did not touch the money. Lokayukta highlighted that this incident marked the first reported case of a reverse trap in recent times.

Escort duty mishap

Personnel assigned to escort Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri found themselves in hot water when they unexpectedly halted the minister's vehicle during his visit to Karnataka for the Vikasita Bharata program. The vehicles passing through Haradanahalli, stopped upon encountering former minister and Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna. While Revanna garlanded Puri, the visibly upset minister questioned the unscheduled stop, expressing displeasure at the wasted time. Puri even directed his staff to take note of those involved in the incident.

Dad daughter reunion

Saturday witnessed a reunion between father and daughter, albeit in a different context. DK Shivakumar's youth ideathon, a part of his Brand Bengaluru project, took place, and the initiative was led by his daughter, Aishwarya Hegde. When addressing the gathering, DKS expressed his wonder at his daughter taking on such a challenging task. However, during her speech, Aishwarya expressed pride in hosting the Deputy CM and providing students with a platform to share their ideas for making Bengaluru a better place to live. Some of the ideas proposed by students included the establishment of pink booths for menstruating women, the integration of ambulance and traffic signals, and the separate disposal of floral and vegetable waste.

'Don't call me granny'

In an unusual incident, a bus conductor allegedly slapped a 15-year-old student who referred to her as "granny" while asking for a ticket. The incident occurred on a bus near Mandya. Enraged by the term "granny," the conductor reportedly slapped the student. Unfazed, the student insisted that the bus be stopped and then complained to her friends. Subsequently, several associations approached the KM Doddi police station, urging the police to take action against the conductor for assaulting the student.

—Sridhar Vivan

City saviours, there's an app for all your needs

Detailed guide on applications that can help citizens to keep an eye out on parks, lakes, greenery

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

BBMP has introduced several apps for citizen volunteers to make use of

Always wanted to monitor the state of parks around you? Now is your chance to do just that. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) that had earlier announced the Udyana Mitra initiative has finally launched the portal where residents can log in and give reviews. This Parks Monitoring System (PMS) application aims to enhance the daily monitoring of park maintenance by various stakeholders, including BBMP officers, maintenance agencies, nodal officers, and park volunteers (Udyana Mitras).

A BBMP official explained, "App users can assess park maintenance aspects such as cleaning, watering, sweeping, weeding, trimming, lawn mowing, and garbage removal during inspection. Higher officials can monitor parks through daily reports generated by application users, addressing issues promptly. Public access to park information is available on the website https://pms.bbmpgov.in/park, allowing them to view amenities, inspections, and submit grievances through Sahaaya 2.0." Inspection details can be viewed for a month where it can be extracted. Fresh round of registrations for Udyana Mitra will be done.

Another initiative is Hasiru Rakshaka: "Under the BBMP limits, safeguarding the greenery of Bengaluru is a collective responsibility. In line with this, the BBMP has introduced three mobile apps and web links to encourage public participation in maintaining gardens and lakes. These apps, namely 'Hasiru Rakshaka', 'Udyana Mitra', and 'Kere Mitra', aim to foster a greener environment within the city," said an official.

Plant caretaker

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had proposed the 'Hasiru Rakshaka' programme during the World Environment Day celebration on June 5. This initiative involves students from schools and colleges in Bengaluru engaging in planting and nurturing trees. Over 52,015 students from 224 institutions have tagged trees as part of this program. The mobile app allows students to log in with their tag ID, providing information about the trees they've planted. Details on tree growth and nourishment are accessible, and students can submit feedback on the app. "Successful participants receive a 'Hasiru Rakshaka' certificate. Geotagging of trees planted during the academic year 2023-24 is facilitated, enhancing tracking and collaboration between students and supervisors. The app, accessible at hasirurakshaka.bbmpgov.in, provides public access to details of trees planted. It offers transparency by showcasing comprehensive data on tree plantation efforts, including the number of trees planted and their locations," said an official.

Eye on lakes

The third such app is Kere Mitra that focuses on effective daily monitoring of lake maintenance by involving BBMP officers, maintenance agencies, nodal officers, and lake volunteers (Kere Mitras). "Application users inspect lakes for maintenance aspects like inlet cleaning, outlet cleaning, sweeping, deweeding, jungle clearance, trimming/lawn mowing, and watering of plants. Higher officials monitor lakes through daily reports, promptly resolving issues and grievances. Public access to lake information is available on the website lms.bbmpgov.in/lake, allowing them to view amenities, inspections, and submit grievances through Sahaaya 2.0. Home guards are deployed to protect the lakes, and their attendance can be monitored through the website. Inspection details are accessible for a month, facilitating effective working.

"Fresh round registrations for 'Kere Mitra' encourage public participation as lake volunteers," added an official.

> **"Under the BBMP limits, safeguarding the greenery of Bengaluru is collective responsibility of all citizens** –BBMP official

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Much needed toilet upgrade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

management while ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene.

On Thursday, the BBMP submitted that it has a plan to construct 800 public toilets and it has already taken measures to construct 600 public toilets, and 100 'SHE' toilets.

The High Court has adjourned the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) petition on the condition of public toilets in the city to January 24.

Some of the e-toilets established in the city are not functioning. The BBMP set up the high-tech toilets with much publicity as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2014. Each toilet costs Rs 5.56 lakh but majority of them are defunct.

"The BBMP must repair the defunct e-toilets at Vignana Nagar bus stop. The e-toilets have been defunct for many years. It will be good to remove these e-toilets as the bus stop has a public toilet," said Muniraju, a resident of Vignananagar.

Welcoming the BBMP's decision to construct around 800 public toilets, Bhaskar Raju, a pedestrian, said the BBMP should consider constructing one or two public toilets on Dhanvantari Road to check black and yellow spots on the footpath near the entrance of Kempegowda bus station.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to take measures for the maintenance of public toilets by providing water, Ashok K, a resident of Basavanagar said the toilets constructed at Vibhutipura Lake are kept locked due to lack of water supply.

"It will be a great help for senior citizens who visit the lake for walks if toilets are kept open. The BBMP constructed four toilets but keeps them locked as there is no water supply," Ashok said.

Maldives asks India to withdraw troops by March 15

#Male

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has asked India to withdraw its military personnel from his country by March 15, a senior official here said on Sunday, nearly two months after Male sought their removal.

According to the latest government figures, there are 88 Indian military personnel in the Maldives.

In a press briefing, Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, the public policy secretary at the President's Office, said that President Muizzu has formally asked India to withdraw its military personnel by March 15, the SunOnline newspaper reported.

"Indian military personnel cannot stay in the Maldives. This is the policy of President Dr Mohamed Muizzu and that of this administration," he said.

Maldives and India have set up a High-Level Core Group to negotiate the withdrawal of troops.

In a statement in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the first meeting of the India-Maldives High-Level Core Group was held in Male on Sunday.

"During the meeting, both sides held discussions on wide-ranging issues related to bilateral cooperation towards identifying steps to enhance the partnership, including expediting the implementation of ongoing development cooperation projects," it said.

"Both sides also held discussions on finding mutually workable solution to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medvac services to the people of Maldives," the MEA statement said.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the High Level Core Group in India on a mutually convenient date, it added.

The meeting was also attended by Indian High Commissioner Munu Mahawar. Maldives Foreign Ministry said that during the meeting both sides reviewed the existing bilateral cooperation.

"Discussions were held on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including development cooperation. Both sides expressed willingness to intensify cooperation and agreed to fast-track the withdrawal of Indian military personnel," the statement said.

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17 last year, Muizzu, who is regarded as a pro-China leader, formally requested India to withdraw its military personnel from his country, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

The request for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel comes amid a diplomatic row between the two nations in the backdrop of derogatory comments posted by three deputy ministers of the Muizzu government against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Muizzu suspended the three ministers after their social media postings, which stirred concern in India and calls for a boycott by Indian tourists who ranked highest in numbers followed by Russia. Chinese tourists figured third.

During his just-concluded state visit to China, Muizzu sought to align Maldives closer to Beijing.

Speaking to the press on Saturday after returning from China, President Muizzu indirectly attacked India.

Without naming any country, he said, "We may be small, but that doesn't give you the license to bully us." **PTI**

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I Roopashree.S & Rupashree.D/O Eshwar Rao R/o No.362.2cm . Ombr Bda Layout Chikka Banaswadi Bengaluru 43 have changed my name to Rupa.E for all purpose

I Gitika W/O, Manish Sood R/o F-105, Nagarjuna Green Woods,, Kadabeesanhalli, Bangalore 560103, Karnataka have changed my name to Gitika Sood .

I Saravanan S/O, Annadurai R/o #392, 3rd Cross, 1st Stage, Kuvempunagar, Jalahalli East, Bangalore 560014 have changed my name to Saravanan Annadurai.

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I, Yuvika Reddy, D/o Late. Archana reddy, R/O No 2255, 15th C Cross, 21st Main, H S R Layout, Bangalore -102,have lost the following documents: original registered sale deed no. 1205-2013/14 in our favour. Original registered conveyance deed no. 11259/2017-18 in favour of M/s Archana reddy in respect of Property no. 104, RAINBOW RETREAT Halanayakanahalli Bangalore - 035, measuring 3255 sqft.

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'BMTC crew under tremendous pressure'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The data suggested that as many as 149 complaints regarding vehicle issues, vehicle defects, and higher emissions were registered in the given period. Experts noted while BMTC buses are running round the clock, maintenance of the vehicles is an issue.

BMTC officials have a different take on the issue. A senior official told BM that since lakhs of commuters use BMTC buses regularly, complaints are bound to be raised.

However, the corporation is taking a serious note of the complaints and working towards bringing down the number. They said strict action based on the gravity of the complaint is taken against erring crew members.

"While some major issues are raised by passengers from time to time, some of them are minor leading to an increase in the number of grievances. Minor complaints are forwarded to depot managers, who conduct inquiries and invite the complainants at times to sit through inquiry sessions. However, some complaints warrant the central office's intervention. There have been instances of members getting suspended as well," said a senior BMTC official.

The corporation highlighted various training programmes that BMTC crew members undergo to improve soft skills and road safety.

"BMTC has a training centre in Vaddarahalli; every time we have complaints against crew members, they are sent to the centre for a three-day soft skill training. We have started training the crew for road safety at the Traffic Management Centre. Drivers, in batches of 50, are sent to the centre for training on traffic rules. We started it about 45 days ago and we have already trained 1,800 drivers. That apart, the 10 Sarathi vehicles exclusively monitor crew members," said the official.

Route timings being revised

Officials told BM that to reduce the work pressure of crew members, timings of 600 routes in the city have already been updated using a real-time vehicle tracking facility.

"We have revised the route timings by adding 10 minutes to the time required to travel from origin to destination. This will further ease pressure on the crew. We have already updated 600 routes in the city and slowly will change timings on all routes," added the official.

HEALTH TIP: Living with bipolar disorder, a serious mental illness that can cause both manic and depressed mood swings, can be challenging

Rich in healthy monounsaturated fats and folate, avocados aid in foetal brain development

BangaloreMirror | 9
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IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Expert offers some tips to deal with problems with family issues that can cause your mental health to deteriorate

In the journey of life, the family is one of the most important support systems one can have. But, sometimes, family members can be a source of stress, which can make life more challenging. Having issues of any kind with members of your family can cause your mental health to deteriorate, so it is important to handle them with the right approach while focusing on your wellbeing and strengthening your bonds.

Every family is different in its own way. There might be numerous ups and downs in families that can have a huge influence on the mental health of its members, be they children or adults. Some minor disagreements and conflicts can be resolved by communicating and looking for solutions. However, there are some cases involving toxic parents, toxic relationships, divorce, unfaithfulness and much more, which can be a lasting source of deteriorating mental health.

There are many ways in which you can solve family issues with different relationships that affect your mental wellbeing. First, you need to understand types of family problems and how to identify them. Manasi Poddar, psychologist and founder of Heal. Grow.Thrive offers some common family issues that you might face.

An Unhealthy Parental Relationship

Families with constantly-fighting parents, whether married or divorced, can cause severe mental problems. It is very stressful to witness your parents fighting and bickering in an unhealthy relationship.

Financial Issues

Financial issues are one of the most common issues faced by families. Challenges such as loss of employment, gambling addictions, and the inability to fulfil basic needs increase mental health issues.

Unsettled Arguments

Unsettled arguments are another commonly-faced family issue. Passive-aggressive behaviour such as screaming and breaking things makes the surroundings stressful and leads to frustration and mental problems. The best way to put a full stop to an unsettled argument is for both parties to compromise.

Toxic Behaviour

Toxic behaviour involves frequent manipulation, disloyalty, dishonesty, and blaming others, which can greatly impact a person's mental health. These behaviours can be the result of a kind of personality disorder, affecting other family members adversely.

Cheating

Disloyalty or cheating often leads to a broken relationship. The person who has been cheated might become fragile and lose the ability to trust another person.

Tips To Cope

Problems come with solutions. Most family issues can be solved with a bit of care and time, helping you improve your own mental wellness.

The most essential foundation of any relationship is trust. You need to be honest in every relationship to make it strong.

Being a good listener is one of the most essential aspects of a relationship.

Give yourself some time. You might need some personal space, some alone time to think about the situation. Go for a walk, meditate, engage in relaxing activities such as listening to music or reading. This will help you clear your mind, think calmly, and process everything properly.

Communication is the key to solving almost any problem. If you have any issue with any family member regarding their behaviour, communicate the same calmly. Try to make them understand your point of view.

To maintain relationships and bonds, you have to set clear boundaries. Be transparent while expressing your requirements and set limitations with loved ones.

Socialising is important for your mental health, so meet up with friends when you can. Sharing your problems with them can help clarify doubts or help you see things in a different light.

Consult a doctor or a mental health professional if you are facing serious issues. If other members are suffering from any mental health issues, holding family sessions with a therapist can be helpful.

—by Kalwyna Rathod, Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Loss of cells in pancreas in elderly might cause age-related diabetes: Research

Tokyo Metropolitan University researchers investigated pancreatic islet cell loss (ICL) in persons who had no prior pancreatic issues. They discovered major trends in the types of cells lost owing to islet cell loss in different age groups and sexes, concluding that ICL in the elderly was mostly caused by insulin-producing beta cell loss. This could be the cause of age-related diabetes and could aid in the development of novel preventative medicines.

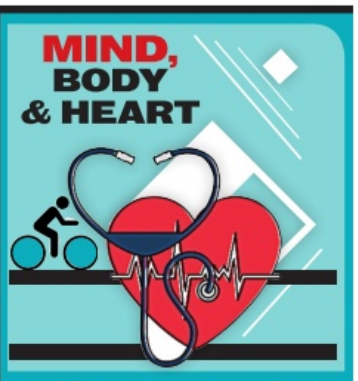
The pancreas is an incredibly important part of the human digestive system, particularly for regulating blood sugar levels by secreting the hormone insulin. While every part of the pancreas is vital, not every part has the same function. A closer look reveals an interesting internal structure, with islets of cells known as islets of Langerhans, after their discoverer, containing the hormone-producing (endocrine) cells. They make a small proportion of all the cells in the pancreas, approximately one per cent, making any changes to their morphology or state a potential driver for health problems.

A team led by Professor Shuang-Qin Yi of Tokyo Metropolitan University have been studying the phenomenon of pancreatic islet cell loss (ICL), where voids are observed in these islet regions when observed under the microscope.

It was possible for such islets to be surrounded by either healthy cells or lesions, and it remained to be seen what they could teach us about a person's health.

This led the team to undertake a thorough survey of pancreatic sections taken from the cadavers of people with no pancreatic diseases before death, aged 65 to 104. Islet cell loss in healthy populations is something that is rarely studied. The degree of cell loss in each sample was found by observing stained sections from the pancreas under the microscope and analyzing the images. They focused on trends by age and sex and kept a close eye on the type of cells left in the pancreas, covering the four most abundant cell types, alpha, beta, delta, and PP (pancreatic polypeptide-producing) cells.

— ANI



All you need to know about...

Poor oral health

Periodontitis worsens lung disease

Researchers have identified immune system cells that play a critical role in how periodontitis -- a severe gum disease worsens chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) -- a potentially fatal lung disease.

Bacteria's role

Periodontitis has been linked to the progression of COPD but an understanding of how the link plays out in the immune system is unclear. Researchers from Sichuan University in China report that bacteria associated with gum disease promote COPD through the activation of 2 types of cells, Gamma delta T cells and M2 macrophages, that are important to immune system.

Controlling COPD

Focusing on this mechanism might offer new, practical strategies for COPD prevention or control, they said in the paper published in the journal mSystems. "By enhancing periodontal therapy and targeting the inhibition of Gamma delta T cells and M2 macrophages [we] may be able to help control the progression of COPD," said microbiologist Boyu Tang, Sichuan University.

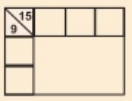
COPD and its causes

According to the World Health Organization, COPD is the sixth-leading cause of death worldwide. It is not curable. In higher-income countries, tobacco smoking is the leading cause of COPD; in low- and middle-income countries, both tobacco smoking and household air pollution are risk factors.

What is periodontitis

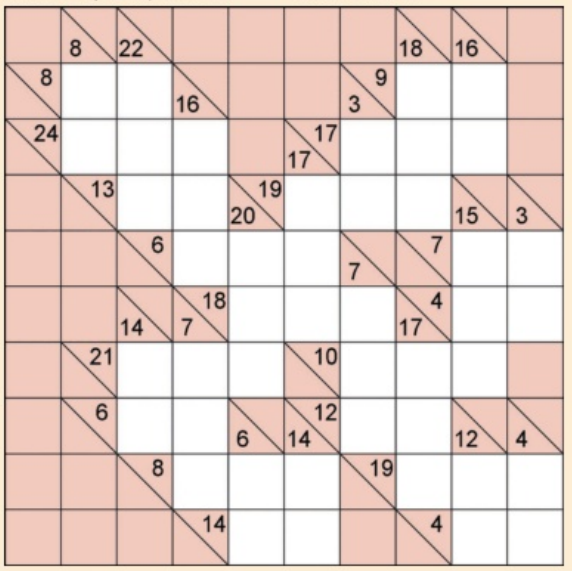
Periodontitis is a gum disease that results from the untreated buildup of plaque, a sticky film made primarily of bacteria. Over time, the plaque can harden into tartar and cause and inflammation of gum tissue, and produce gaps between teeth and gums where bacteria flourish. **—IANS**

Kakuro

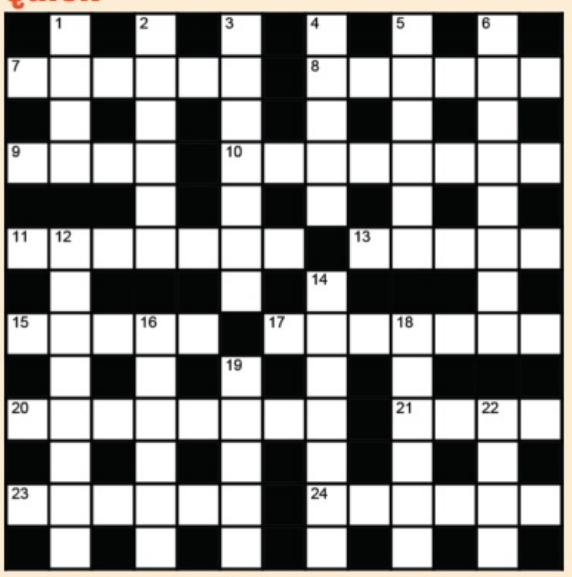


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Royal residence (6)
8 Cropped up, came about or transpired (6)
9 Ms Bhatt of Bollywood (4)
10 Prisoner (8)
11 Occupant (7)
13 Readily available (2,3)
15 Baby borzoi (5)
17 Added a sweetening agent? (7)
20 Temporary expedients (8)
21 Novice (4)
23 Dissimilar (6)
24 As a precaution (2,4)

DOWN

1 One of the Apostles (4)
2 Karnataka tourist destination known for its sculptures and red sandstone cliffs (6)
3 Explained, expounded or clarified (7)
4 Agreements, understandings or treaties (5)
5 Millionth part of a metre (6)
6 A deputed representative (8)
12 Balancing, comparing or relating (8)
14 Tabla maestro Zakir ___ (7)
16 Frodo's companion in Lord Of The Rings (6)
18 Garrets (6)
19 Ebbs or reduces in intensity (5)
22 A kind of trick (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS L

XB GDD NDLN BGXDL, XV-VESMGDXMC JGI GDKGCL ON GLLHSNP OC LFNJMGJHDGS NSSES.

Linemaro

I think my plants would love you

Mindchow

There is more to life than increasing its speed

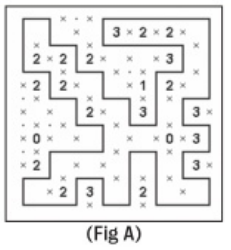
Joke of the day

A hospital bed is a parked taxi with the meter running

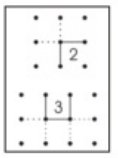
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

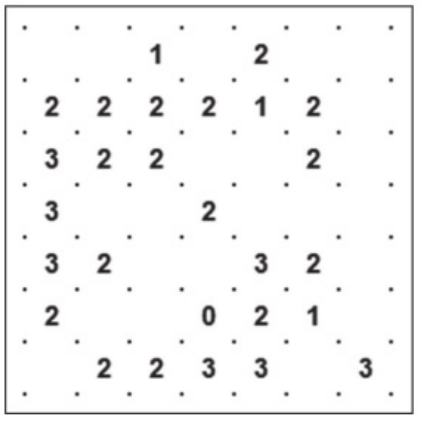


(Fig B) Not Allowed

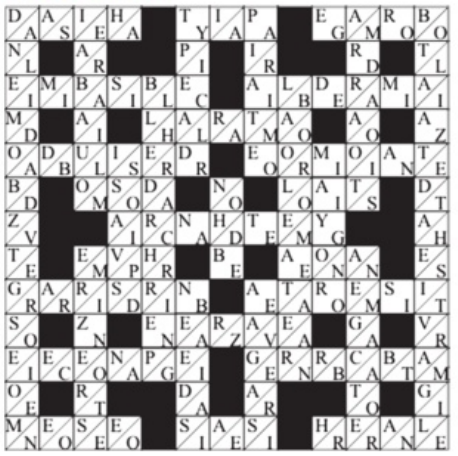
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



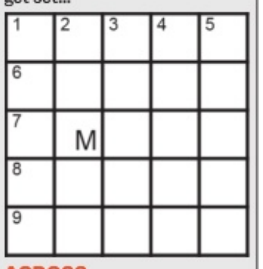
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 T blur; 6 A mail; 7 Maims; 8 Ems me; 9 Pried

DOWN

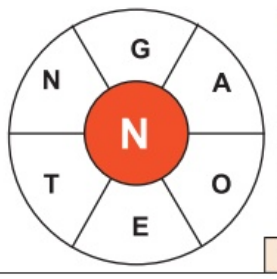
1 P limb; 2 Realm; 3 I a mum; 4 Dimer; 5 Asset

Mensapuzzle

Start at one of the four corner letters and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter to spell out a nine-letter word. You must provide the missing letters.

E	L	I
	F	E
	I	D

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2	4			5		
3			2					6
	4			9		2		8
				7			8	3
8								9
5	7			6				
2		7		3			6	
9					1			5
		6			5	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

2 4 4 5

Medium = 14

4 5 7 8

Hard = 3

4 6 7 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

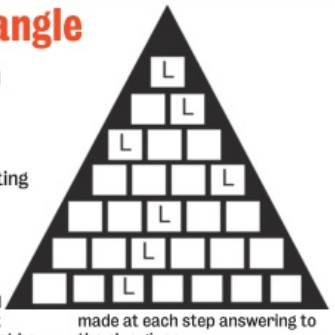
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Mouth is not open as wide. 3. Roof is smaller. 4. Shirt is tucked in. 5. Sleeve is shorter. 6. Briefcase handle is different.

Riddler

What is it that speaks without any words? And can be loudly and distinctly heard? Will drive away friend, and foe alike. And is enough to make a stolid man's face alight?

Alpha triangle

1 Learner's plate
2 Aluminium symbol
3 Flight
4 Post
5 Italian city
6 Slander
7 Soothing or placating



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

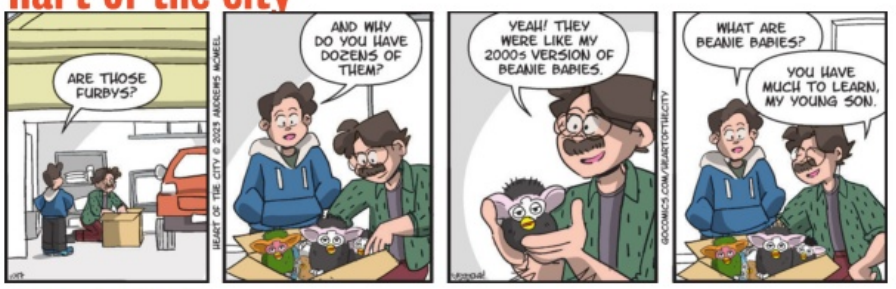
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


ARE THOSE FURBYS?
AND WHY DO YOU HAVE DOZENS OF THEM?
YEAH! THEY WERE LIKE MY 2000s VERSION OF BEANIE BABIES.
WHAT ARE BEANIE BABIES?
YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, MY YOUNG SON.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

I MADE A LOT OF DOUGH WITH THE SCREENWRITING AND COMIC BOOK WORK...
BUT WITH THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY CIRCLING THE DRAIN...
MONTONI'S
CLOSED
10-25
I THOUGHT WE COULD TRY RAISING A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOUGH!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE COMICS?
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to strike a balance between your earnings and expenses, boosting your bank balance. You might perform better in your job, and your boss may assign you new responsibilities, possibly leading to a promotion. Any money that was previously stuck may be returned to you, and you may gain control over your opponents and hidden enemies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you can expect some smart gains from your past investments. Achieving your goals may require less effort, boosting your confidence. However, you are advised to control your straightforwardness, as it may affect your relationships with those around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are advised to control expenditures on unnecessary items, as it may impact your savings. Avoid lending money and be cautious with important decisions to prevent anxiety. It is recommended to stay practical and avoid making emotional decisions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may experience negative vibrations, leading to unhappiness. Avoid making investments in worthless assets, as friends and people around you may not be supportive. It is advised not to expect too much help from others, and independent decision-making is recommended.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may struggle to present yourself logically and might experience a dull feeling, leading to a lack of confidence. Trust your intuition when making investment decisions. People around you may not be cooperative in routine work, and caution is advised regarding unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel excited due to the cooperation of your family and friends. Planning to renovate your house or enhance your social status with souvenir items is likely. Expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you're in a good mood and may feel romantic. Exercise is recommended to overcome back pain. Making fruitful plans for the future in terms of your profession is advisable. Good news from your kids may be expected, and lovebirds may make important decisions about marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may meet old friends or be busy with social gatherings. Excite- ment and innovations in business may lead to unexpected material gains. Positive news in terms of studies may come from kids, and lovebirds can enjoy quality moments.

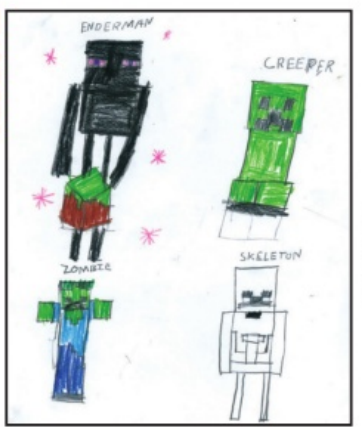
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your investments may bring profits, enhancing your savings. Family support contributes to domestic harmony, and there may be unexpected gains. Opportunities for promotions or job changes may increase professional stability.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may expect instant gains in your business, boosting your confidence and bank balance. Avoid stress in domestic life, and business and work may see positive momentum. Increased prestige and potential overseas travel plans are indicated.

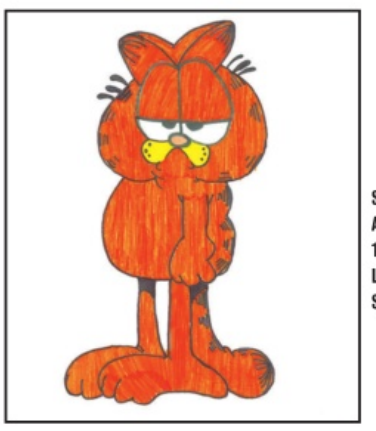
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, students may expect positive results after in-depth research. Singles may find a soul match, and good understanding with your spouse may enhance domestic life. Spiritual insights may guide you, and new business plans may address workflow issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, things may not be favourable, and you may feel dull and unhappy. Mysterious fears could upset you, and a lack of confidence may affect your work. It is advisable to avoid rushing during driving and risky adventure tours.

KIDZONE



Neel Naik, 8 years, Greenwood High



Samuel Alan, 10 years, Legacy School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{(41+2\sqrt{5})}$
$=\sqrt{(41+2\sqrt{180})}$
$=\sqrt{36}+\sqrt{5}$
$=6+\sqrt{5}$
$\sqrt{(14-6\sqrt{5})}$
$=\sqrt{(14-2\sqrt{45})}$
$=\sqrt{9}-\sqrt{5}$
$=3-\sqrt{5}$
$(6+\sqrt{5}+3-\sqrt{5})\cdot(1/2)$
$=9\cdot(1/2)$
$=3$

RIDDLER
Flatulence

STRIKE OUT

A	S	E	A		Y	I	P		G	A	R	B		
N		R		I		R		D		L				
M	B	I	B	E		I	B	E	R	I	A			
I		L		L	A	M	A		O		Z			
A	B	U	S	E	D		E	R	M	I	N	E		
D		O		O	A	T		T						
V		A	C	A	D	E	M	Y		H				
E	M	P	H		E	O	N		E					
R	A	I	S	I	N		A	T	R	E	S	T		
S		N		N	E	R	V	E		G		R		
I	C	E	A	G	E		E	R	R	A	T	A		
O		R		D		R		T		I				
N	O	S	E		S	A	S		H	E	A	L		

FAST FIVE

B	L	U	R	T
L	A	M	I	A
I	M	A	M	S
M	E	M	E	S
P	R	I	D	E

QUICK

P	A	L	A	C	E		A	R	I	S	E	N		
U		D		F		C		L						
A	L	I	A		I	N	T	E	R	N	E	E		
L		M		N		S		O		G				
D	E	N	I	Z	E	N		O	N	T	A	P		
O		H		D		T								
S	T	O	P	G	A	P	S		T	Y	R	O		
I		P		N		A		I		U				
U	N	L	I	K	E		I	N	C	A	S	E		
G		N		S		N		S		E				
P	U	P	P	Y		S	U	G	A	R	E	D		
A		W		I										
M	P	H		E	O	N		E						
E		D		H										
R	A	I	S	I	N		A	T	R	E	S	T		
S		N		N	E	R	V	E		G		R		
I	C	E	A	G	E		E	R	R	A	T	A		
O		R		D		R		T		I				
N	O	S	E		S	A	S		H	E	A	L		

MENSA PUZZLE
DISBELIEF

If all else fails, immortality can always be assured by spectacular error.

QUOTE UNCODE

aeon, agent, ante, atone, gent, gnat, gone, neat, neon, none, note, tango, tone, tong, TONNAGE

BULL'S EYE

SUDOKU

6	9	2	4	1	8	5	3	7
3	1	8	2	5	7	9	4	6
7	4	5	3	9	6	2	1	8
4	2	1	5	7	9	6	8	3
8	6	3	1	4	2	7	5	9
5	7	9	8	6	3	1	2	4
2	5	7	9	3	4	8	6	1
9	8	4	6	2	1	3	7	5
1	3	6	7	8	5	4	9	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Al, Lam, Mall, Milan, Malign, Claiming.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 – 4 + 4 + 5 = 7
Medium
8 + 7 + 4 – 5 = 14
Hard
7 – 4 + 6 – 6 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

 # Selena as Linda Ronstadt
Oscar-nominated director David O Russell is all set to direct actor Selena Gomez in the upcoming Linda Ronstadt biopic

BangaloreMirror | 12
Monday, January 15, 2024
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Think you know Kat?

Know more about actor Katrina Kaif

Katrina Kaif is currently garnering accolades for her role in Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas that released recently. The Tiger 3 actor has had a long and successful stint at the movies, with films like Jab Tak Hai Jaan, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, Namastey London and many more to her credit. Married to Vicky Kaushal, Katrina is not only an actor, but a successful entrepreneur too, with her own line of beauty cosmetics.

Here is some interesting trivia on one of the most stunning women in tinsel town...

Katrina Kaif's diverse background contributes to her global appeal. Her mother has English roots, while her father has Kashmiri. She was born in Hong Kong, and grew up all over the world such as Hawaii, London and Europe, before eventually settling in Mumbai, India.

Modeling Success

Before venturing into Bollywood, Katrina began her career as a model. Her striking features and captivating presence led to collaborations with renowned brands.

Bollywood Breakthrough

While her Bollywood journey began with the 2003 film "Boom," it was her standout performance in "Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?" (2005) that catapulted her to stardom. Since then, Katrina Kaif has consistently delivered notable performances.

Philanthropic Endeavors

Beyond her entertainment career, Katrina actively participates in philanthropy. She has been involved in various charitable initiatives focused on improving education and healthcare for underprivileged children.

—ETimes

First-of-its-kind: 1,000 people participated in 45's shoot

The multi-star Kannada movie 45 continues to create curiosity among moviegoers. 45 created a buzz when music director Arjun Janya announced well-known and reputed actors as the cast of this movie. Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B Shetty are the important cast. Arjun Janya, one of the best music directors in the industry, debuts as a director with 45.

The other specialty of the movie is producer Ramesh Reddy who has bankrolled big-ticket Kannada movies. Reddy is bankrolling 45 under the Suraj Productions banner. "It is a big-budget movie. We are not making any compromise on the quality of the movie. Though we want to release the movie in 2024, we are yet to decide on a date," said Reddy.

Recently, a spectacular scene of the movie was shot at Sri Champakadhama Swamy Temple near Bannerghatta. More than 1,000 people participated in the shooting. Macobot and rope cameras were used and more than 400 colour bombs were used. It is said that 45 is the first Kannada movie to use such a number of colour bombs. The scene is choreographed by Chinni Prakash.

"The sequence is an introduction scene of Dr Shivarajkumar. Around 60% of the shooting is over. We have started computer graphics work," said Arjun Janya.

CITY PAGE 2
How various communities will celebrate Sankranthi

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